

Serial No. 09/733,036
Docket No. 249331/98DIV
NEC.136DIV

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is believed proper since no new issues are being presented to the Examiner which would require further consideration and/or search.

Claims 21-23 and 26-36 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 and 31-36 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 21-23 and 26-30 are allowed.

It is noted that the claim amendments herein are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for any statutory requirements of patentability.

Further, it is noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

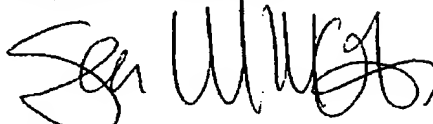
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 21-23 and 26-36, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or to credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean M. McGinn
Registration No.: 34,386

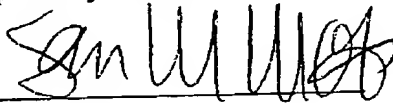
Date:

3/8/04
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2828, at (703) 872-9306, on March 8, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean M. McGinn
Reg. No. 34,386

Date:

3/8/04